20 YEARS!
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Wonder Woman

Diana's Wondrous Woman

Diana has experienced ups and downs since the launch of her new ***Wonder Woman*** title last summer. The book got off schedule quickly, the first story arc had to be set aside for months while other continuity-related storylines ran their course, and the book suffered for lack of a steady creative team

This fall, however, Diana finally gets some long-overdue attention with the return of a pair of fan-favorite artists and—more importantly—the addition of a high-profile permanent writer. *Gail Simone* was so excited at the chance to helm the Amazon's adventures, in fact, that she left a popular run on ***Birds of Prey*** in order to make room for the new assignment.

What made her take the ***Wonder Woman*** gig? "It's a funny thing, but when I first started at DC, and ***Birds of Prey*** was getting a good critical and commercial response, *Dan DiDio* asked me what books I would like to write, and my honest response was 'anything *but* ***Wonder Woman***,'" Simone said. "It's not that I didn't love the character, because I did, but there was a natural fear, exacerbated by the fact that I was already doing a book with a nearly completely female cast, that I would be typecast as a write for 'chick books.' Even beyond that, the character is so daunting—I really felt a bit intimidated by the notion of taking her on.

"But I got to write a scene with her in ***Birds of Prey***, and I found quickly that I loved writing her like almost no other character. It was honestly like a little electric charge, and from then on, I wrote her every chance I got, and to this day I'd still probably be trying to shoe-horn her into every book I could if I hadn't ended up with the actual assignment."

Without a doubt, fans enjoyed what Simone was doing with the Amazing Amazon. "I won the ***Wonder Woman*** writer of the year polls at the DC boards for two years running, and all of a sudden the readers were circulating petitions to get me on the book, and some of my favorite ***Wonder Woman*** writers were also lobbying for me with DC management.

"It all seemed a little—I don't know—*pre-destined*, if I may use a goofy word. I started to think maybe if all these people who love ***Wonder Woman*** so much wanted me on the book, maybe they're *on* to something. In any case, by the time Dan asked me, it had really become the number one book I wanted to work on. And I honestly couldn't be happier."

Simone has nothing but good things to say about the work of *Allan Heinberg* and *Jodi Picoult*, the writers who preceded her on the title. "I think Allan's and Jodi's stuff is going to be very well-regarded in ***WW*** history. Allan brought spectacle back to the book, and Jodi is just a hugely smart writer who brought a whole different bag of tricks. It's unfortunate that some things didn't go as smoothly as everyone had hoped, but I find both those runs very entertaining, and it's definitely a challenge to follow two of the most successful writers going.

"That said—and this is going to sound weird, perhaps—I've never felt more certain of a book's direction than now. Whether you're a long-time Diana lover, or have never really 'got' her before, I think there's a *lot* to love here.

"First and foremost, we have one of the best art teams in the business with *Terry & Rachel Dodson*. I could write my scripts on a besotted napkin in the dark and they'd make it look beautiful. I think people are going to re-think a lot of Diana's cast, simply because the art is so unbelievably gorgeous.

"Then we have a dream editorial team, one of the best I've ever worked with, in *Matt Idelson* and *Nachie Castro*.

"But in terms of story, we're telling some real freight train pieces. We're playing Wonder Woman straight, as the best damn warrior the DCU has ever known, period. The goal is just to remind everyone why she stands shoulder to shoulder with Batman and Superman, and what makes her the best female action hero of all time.

"I've been lucky enough, since getting this assignment, to talk to most of the definitive living ***Wonder Woman*** writers, and they've all been universally amazing and gracious, from *Phil Jimenez*, to Jodi and Allan, to *Greg Rucka*, and finally, to the great *George Perez*. Their love for Diana and their creativity is a huge inspiration and I can only hope that we hold up our end of her story."

Simone is aware that the short tenure of some of the creative teams has been detrimental to ***Wonder Woman's*** success, but she assures readers that she *won't* be another "gone-in-five-issues" writer. "I'm on this book for as long as I can type and DC will allow. I hope to be doing another interview with you about it five years from now! Terry and Rachel are committed to the book, thank god, and the pages they're turning in—holy crap, they just look *fantastic*!

"Between the big Terry arcs, we are inviting some of the best artists around to do shorter one and two issue arcs. But I stress, these are *not* fill-ins. They are integral parts of the ongoing story, as good as we can possibly make them. This book is getting the best efforts of everyone involved, heart and soul."

In the past few years, readers have witnessed mythological Wonder Woman, secret agent Wonder Woman, diplomat Wonder Women... so who *is* Wonder Woman? "That's a great question, and the answer is *all of those things*. I mean, no one balks at a book that has reporter Superman, husband Superman, alien Superman, farmboy Superman, etc. etc. They're all facets of a great character. We're getting to all of those aspects, but at first, we're starting with a couple stories designed to really challenge and define Wonder Woman, for herself and the readers.

"I loved Allan's run, and we were talking last week about how his set-up is such a rich vein to mine. But there is one important thematic difference which organically flows from his story, which was about 'Who Is Wonder Woman?' At the point where we're picking up, Wonder Woman knows *exactly* who she is."

Just who she *is* is an important element of Simone's first arc. "It turns out that there are a few things about the night of Diana's birth that neither she nor the readers have yet been told. And in fact, someone tried to assassinate her that same night. And now they're back. I hate to give out spoilers, but this is a definite sort of ***High Noon*** story that will test Diana in the most feral and primal way imaginable."

What supporting cast will Simone utilize in her run on the book? "Well, the Department of Metahuman Affairs, of course, and we're going to see a few very, very cool additions that I think long-term readers will find delightful. I don't want to say too much, but we *do* want her to have a fun and compelling cast, and one of the priorities is to re-establish what being an Amazon is supposed to mean."

As for guest stars, Simone confirms that "definitely, there are appearances—I *do* hope to have Black Canary appear, and the JLA does make an appearance early on— but it's Wonder Woman's book."

Will Simone bring back any old Wonder Woman villains, or is she focusing on a new and more memorable rogues' gallery? "This first year is primarily new villains, including one which I think may become Wonder Woman's Bane or Doomsday—a real harbinger of nastiness. But she *does* have some great characters I've played with elsewhere, like Dr. Psycho, Giganta and Cheetah. We'll see them all eventually. I really do like Dr. Poison, as well. But we are *definitely* taking a bit of a break with Circe."

Simone also hopes to explore Wonder Woman's personal life a bit more. "We're going to get to see something that hasn't been shown ever, to my knowledge: Amazon courting rituals. It's gonna be entertaining and more than a little uncomfortable!"

Speaking of relationships, Simone describes Wonder Woman's relation with the her fellow Amazons as "strained. Athena has placed a magical barrier so that neither Diana nor the rank-and-file Amazons can set foot on Themyscira, leaving Hippolyta alone on the island. Well, *almost* alone..."

Simone acknowledges that "some people—even people in the industry—believe that Wonder Woman's appeal is primarily to female readers, but I just haven't found that to be the case at all. Her fanbase is one of the most diverse I've seen, and they are hardcore dedicated. At the same time, there are a lot of people who *want* to love her book but haven't really followed it for one reason or another…

"If we can get people to look at Diana with fresh eyes, I'll consider our run a raging success. To that end, we're looking at all her toys and quirks with a microscope to wring every bit of fun and drama we can. We're going to show how the golden lasso is a thousand times cooler and scarier than Wolverine's claws, for example.

"Wonder Woman is the best warrior in the DCU, period. Compassionate, wise, forgiving, and fierce beyond measure. Gifted with some of the coolest and most dangerous weapons in comics. A fantastic and unique origin. A great supporting cast. And all of it drawn by some of the best artists going. We have a lot to live up to, and if I mess up, I'm going to have to move to Antarctica and live with the penguins. I hope the readers won't let that happen, as I can't stand herring."

Wonder Woman #14, the first issue by the *Gail Simone-Terry Dodson-Rachel Dodson* creative team, is scheduled for November 14th release.

by Cliff Biggers

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

Comic Shop Newsarama

Produced by Comic Shop News in cooperation with Matt Brady and newsarama.com

CSNsider

•Last week we told you that *Ron Lim* was supplying the zombie-variant cover art for ***Anita Blake: The First Death #2***—and that Lim had been tapped to replace *Brett Booth* as ***Anita Blake*** artist beginning with ***Anita Blake, Vampire Hunter—Guilty Pleasures #8.*** There's still more ***Anita Blake*** news, however; according to Marvel Senior VP of Sales and Circulation *David Gabriel*, "Anita will be fighting the actual Marvel Zombies in ***Guilty Pleasures #8.***" What's going on, and how does Anita end up interacting with Marvel Universe characters? Find out in a few months!

•It's a bright autumn for ***Black Summer:*** issue #s 0 & 1 of the *Warren Ellis* series have both sold out from Avatar. Rather than reprinting the individual issues, Avatar has decided to compile both books in ***Black Summer Alpha,*** which will carry a single-issue price. Look for it in the next week or so!

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•*Steve Niles & Kelley Jones,* who have worked together previously on Cal MacDonald, will be reuniting in 2008 to produce ***Batman: Gotham After Midnight,*** which is tentatively slated to run twelve issues. This is the *second* reported Batman project for *Kelley Jones,* who has also been named as illustrator for an upcoming *Doug Moench*-written series (the art shown here was displayed by DC in conjunction with that Moench-Jones series, but it's such a great piece that we couldn't pass up the chance to show it to you!).

•*Tom Batiuk* made news across the nation when he presented the cancer-related death of popular character Lisa Moore in early October in ***Funky Winkerbean.*** Batiuk is making news again, though, in setting comic strip speed records by collecting ***Lisa's Story: The Other Shoe*** in book form in the same month that the strips appeared in the newspaper. The $28 book, published by Kent State University Press, follows Lisa's successes, struggles, and setbacks in the course of her cancer. And in an especially remarkable turn of events, the book ends with her husband Les Moore holding a "Lisa's Legacy Race" to raise money for cancer research—and University Hospitals' Ireland Cancer Center in Cleveland, Ohio, is creating just such a race for just such a purpose in honor of the passing of this beloved comic strip character. Royalties from the sales of the book will also go to this worthy cause.

•The Dabel Brothers have landed another major project since their amicable split with Marvel Comics. In addition to the already-announced ***Dean Koontz's Frankenstein,*** the Dabels have landed the rights to *Jim Butcher's* popular occult-detective series of novels ***The Dresden Files.*** On his website, Butcher revealed that " Working together with Dabel Brothers Productions, ***The Dresden Files*** are going to be translated into a graphic novel format. The current plan is to lay out the ***Dresden Files*** storyline at the rate of one of the novels every twelve to sixteen monthly issues, with occasional side-trips and independent stories thrown in. (Ever wonder what happened in Branson the month before ***Storm Front***? How about what somebody saw in the lake in Minnesota between ***Storm Front*** and ***Fool Moon***? Maybe I'll get to tell those stories now! How cool is that?)

"I will be assisting with the writing of the comics, and am also involved in the design and approval of the characters, art, tone, and so on. This is an actual hand-in-hand project in which I have full creative input and influence, and I'm friggin' giddy about it. I mean, come on! Comic books!"

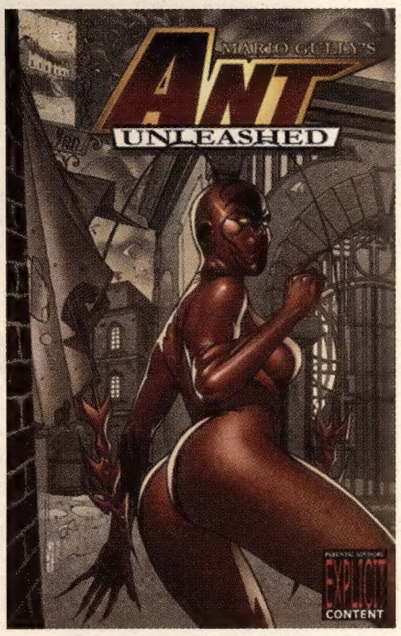
Look for more big Dabel Brothers news here in *CSN* in the next week or two!

•*Tim Vigil* has been chosen to illustrate *Mark Kidwell's* oneshot ***Frank Frazetta's Dark Kingdom,*** inspired by a Frazetta painting and set in the same world as ***Death Dealer.*** "We are so happy to bring Tim to Frazetta Comics," Frazetta project editor *Jay Fotos* told ***Comic Shop Newsarama's*** *Matt Brady.* "Tim is a veteran in the industry and brings back the 'old school' classic look we want. His work thus far on the book is incredible and we're already anticipating a ***Dark Kingdom Part 2,*** knowing this book will blow people's minds and they'll want more!" Look for the oneshot in early 2008; it will be offered with a Frazetta painting cover and with variant covers by *Nat Jones & Tim Vigil.*

•Kirby fans won't go hungry for unseen material in DC's ***Jack Kirby's Fourth World Omnibus Volume Four!*** The publisher has announced that the final volume in its massively comprehensive chronological reprinting of all Kirby's Fourth World material will feature Kirby's ***The Hunger Dogs,*** with twenty-four pages of art restored to the original inks by *Mike Royer.*

"We are excited to share with readers Kirby's original vision for the epic's end in Vol. 4 of the ***Fourth World Omnibus*** series," *Georg Brewer,* VP — Design and DC Direct Creative, said. "This collection features twenty-four pages at the size that Kirby penciled them, the way they looked before being altered to fit the larger trim size of the ***Hunger dogs*** graphic novel. Faithfully inked by *Mike Royer,* these pages are incorporated within the ***Hunger Dogs*** story, which is completely re-colored with a sensibility consistent with the previous ***Omnibus*** hard covers. Along with the Fourth World character entries he drew for ***Who's Who: The Definitive Directory of the DC Universe,*** these exciting, rarely seen aspects of Kirby's work and this important story make this a must-have for every serious comics collector." Additionally, ***Jack Kirby's Fourth World Omnibus Volume Four*** will collect ***Mister Miracle #s 10-18, Forever People #11, New Gods #11,*** and the forty-eight-page story "Even Gods Must Die" originally published in 1984's ***New Gods #6.*** Look for this final volume in March 2008.

•*Matt Brady, Michael Doran,* and the rest of our pals over at Newsarama.com are celebrating new ownership: the popular comics website, which continues to partner with ***Comic Shop News*** to help us bring news and info to our readership, has become a part of the Imaginova Network (which is responsible for such science-oriented sites as space.com). This marks Imaginova's first venture into genre entertainment. "Everything you've come to know and expect from Newsarama is going to get better," *Michael Doran & Matt Brady* said. "We will continue to guide and grow the site editorially as we have since Day One and the writers you have come to know and trust will come along with us for this exciting ride."



•*Mario Gully's* ***Ant,*** which began as a self-published book before moving to Image, is about to find another home at Big City Comics. ***Ant: Unleashed #1*** is slated for December release. "I'm happy to say that issue #s 1 & 2 are already done," Gully told ***Comic Shop Newsarama's*** *Benjamin Ong Pang Kean.* "This book is a bit darker than

the previous ***Ant*** volumes, and it's really the Ant that I've always wanted to portray. This is my way of taking off the gloves and really going for it."

Gully is illustrating the first two issues of another project, ***Totem***, also slated for release from Big City. The premise? "A High School kid's parents were killed in Columbia in a drug raid when he was a little boy," Gully said. "Well, they can't go to purgatory because it's now full! The Heavenly bodies decide who goes up and who goes down, but the Totem powers that are bestowed on the children. Ian is a good kid and how he uses his Totem powers will affect the outcome of his mother's final destination. The book is written and created by *Jeff Kaufman*. I was just riding with him. Mind blowing stuff!" ***Totem #1*** is slated for January release.

•Big Event Alert: Marvel has confirmed that *Brian Bendis & Brian Reed's* ***New Avengers: Illuminati #5***, on sale in early November, will be branded "Secret Invasion: Infiltration," and it will lay the groundwork for a major 2006 event... so don't let this one slip by! (Readers might recall that the groundwork for the entire Skrull infiltration storyline was laid in ***New Avengers: Illuminati #1...)***

•DC has added *Steve Rotterdam* to their team; he joins the company as Senior Vice President, Sales and Marketing. "It's an exciting time for DC as our characters and creativity are having an increased presence in the popular culture, and we welcome Steve to the team," *Paul Levitz*, President & Publisher of DC Comics, said. "We're reaching more new readers and customers, and look forward to his accelerating our growth." Rotterdam will guide sales and marketing for efforts for DC, WildStorm, Vertigo, Mad, Minx, CMX, and DC Direct.

•*Sean O'Reilly*, head of Arcana Studios, is joining Platinum Studios as publisher of their comics line and head of their animation efforts. The deal also gives Platinum the option to acquire Arcana.

Steven Massarsky Passes

Steven Massarsky, one of the co-founders of Voyager Communications (the parent company of the 1990's fan-fave Valiant Comics), died on October 5th from complications related to cancer; he was 59 years old.

Massarsky, along with former Marvel editor-in-chief *Jim Shooter*, built Valiant from nothing to the field's third-largest publisher before the company was negatively impacted by the backlash from the early 90's speculator boom. When the company was sold to Acclaim Entertainment, Massarsky remained on board as president and publisher of the Acclaim Comics division.

Richard Goldwater Passes

Richard H. Goldwater, the president and co-publisher of Archie Comics, died on October 2nd from complications related to cancer; he was 71 years old.

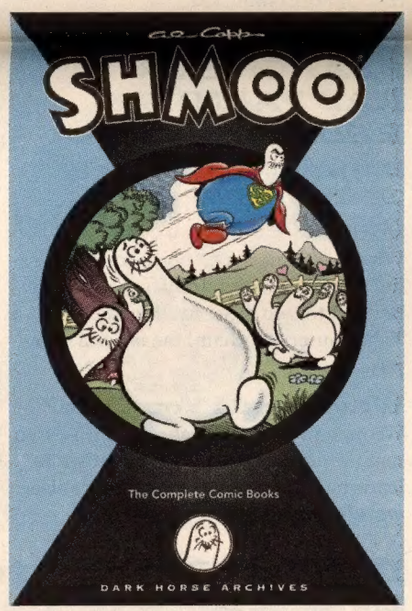
Goldwater, the son of Archie creator and company co-founder *John Goldwater*, went to work for Archie after graduating from college; eventually he and lifelong friend *Michael Silberkleit* (son of another of MLJ/Archie Comics founder, *Michael Silberkleit*), took the company private and maintained its role as one of the nation's best-known comics publisher.

Back in 1973, when asked what led to Archie's enduring appeal, Goldwater said, "He's basically a square, but in my opinion squares are the backbone of America. If we didn't have squares, we wouldn't have strong families." Goldwater made sure that the Riverdale remained a positive microcosm of middle America, which is why the comics are popular not only in the US, but around the world—they are a visual representation of some of the best qualities of the American dream.

Goldwater also helped guide Archie's diversification with such titles as ***Sabrina the Teenage Witch, Josie and the Pussycats, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles,*** and ***Sonic the Hedgehog***—and in every case, he made sure that the book reflected the strong ethical values that epitomized the Archie titles. Goldwater also experimented from time to time with a return to superhero comics publishing, but never found the right formula for those titles.

"I worked with Richard for almost fifty years," vice president and managing editor *Victor Gorelick* said. "He passed on his enthusiasm and love for the Archie characters to me. He was my boss and my friend. I'm going to miss him and our almost daily talks."

"I am proud to know that my good friend Richard played a major role in bringing America's favorite teenage humor characters into millions of American homes," *Michael Silberkleit* said. "I will miss him profoundly, both as a life-long friend and business partner."



Coming Comics—Dark Horse in January 2008

Believe it or not, there *were* comics phenomena before variant editions and zombified covers—and Dark Horse collects one of the most incredible of all comics phenomena in ***Al Capp's Complete Shmoo: The Comic Books,*** a 176-page collection of all the comic book stories from 1949 and 1950 featuring those lovable Shmoos, along with advertisements, bonus stories, annotations, and more.

In the wake of the second world war, Professor Trevor Bruttenholm—occult investigator and guardian of the infant Hellboy—founded the Bureau for Paranormal Research and Defense to investigate and defuse the remains of the Axis's sophisticated occult warfare projects and potential Soviet threats. Now, outfitted with a small band of war-weary Allied soldiers, Bruttenholm begins to unravel the mystery of the Nazi Occult Bureau's greatest and most threatening initiatives: Project Vampir Sturm. See what he uncovers in ***BPRD: 1946 #1*** by *Mike Mignola, Joshua Dysart, & Paul Azaceta.*

Joss Whedon returns as writer for the third story arc beginning with ***Buffy the Vampire Slayer #10,*** joined by guest penciller *Cliff Richards*. This time out, Buffy and Willow meet a demon who reveals a dim future, forcing the two to reflect on their past. Meanwhile, back in Scotland, Dawn confides in Xander the deed that led to her mysterious growth spurt.

Okay, so it didn't actually appear on time... Dark Horse is now planning to publish their oft-delayed history, ***Dark Horse: Twenty Years of Comics*** in their twenty-*first* year of operation.

Adam Warren revisits the life of a struggling costumed crimefighter in ***Empowered Volume Three***—and this time out, she learns that another female superhero is stealing her identity!

Mark Verheiden & John Bolton revisit the world of Ash in ***The Evil Dead,*** a four-part limited series that's the first official *expansion* on the classic horror film that introduced the powerful Book of the Dead, the relentlessly violent deadites, and Ash.

Jim Silke revisits the perennial charm of *Bettie Page* in his ***Jim Silke's Bettie Page Portfolio,*** which features six color plates, six black and white plates, sketch art, and commentary.

First4Figures and Dark Horse capture a confrontation to remember in their ***Judge Dredd Vs. Alien Statue,*** limited to one thousand copies worldwide.

It's one of the more memorable moments from the forgettable ***Revenge of the Sith...*** and now it's a vinyl model kit. ***Kotobukiya Yoda Vs. Palpatine*** measures over fifteen inches long, and almost eleven inches tall, with both of the figures being independent of the base.

Taxidermy, The Spam Witch, and Lenore in her bunny suit... you can add 'em all to your collection thanks to Dark Horse's ***Lenore PVC Set #2.***

Dark Horse continues its fumettization of the ***Star Wars*** films with the release of ***Star Wars: Episode V—The Empire Strike Back Photo Comic.***

The epoch-spanning ***Vector*** storyline begins in ***Star Wars: Knights of the Old Republic #25*** by *John Jackson Miller & Scott Hepburn.* This is a yea-long event with repercussions for every era and every hero in the Star Wars galaxy begins here! When a terrible vision reaching more than four thousand years into the future alerts the secret Jedi Covenant to the importance of Taris, they activate an operative already on this planet overrun by Mandalorians. There, in the deadly Undercity, she will encounter a monstrous threat, an ancient legend, and Zayne Carrick, the Padawan accused of killing his fellow students!

Dark Horse collected editions include:

•***Aliens Omnibus Volume Three,*** collecting 376 pages of long-unavailable ***Aliens*** tales, including ***Rogue, Labyrinth,*** and "Salvation";

•***Apocalypse Nerd,*** collecting the *Peter Bagge* miniseries;

•***Chronicles of Conan Volume Fourteen,*** reprinting Marvel's ***Conan #s 108-115,*** featuring *Roy Thomas's* final run on the acclaimed series;

•***Conan Volume Five: Rogues in the House,*** collecting ***Conan #s 37, 38, & 41-44*** by *Timothy Truman, Cary Nord, & Tomas Giorello;* and

•***Harvey Classics Library Volume Three: Hot Stuff,*** collecting 480 pages of charming tales starring the hot-headed little devil with an impish charm.

Top Comics for Nov

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #545

J. Michael Straczynski (W); Joe Quesada (A)

(Marvel SEP072177 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Learn exactly how far Peter Parker will go in order to find just one more day of happiness for those closest to him...

Why Should You Care?

Big changes are coming in the Peter Parker status quo, including a major change in his relationship with Mary Jane... and this issue reveals just what those changes are and how they come about!

BADGER: BULL

Mike Baron (W); Kevin Caron (A)

(IDW SEP073761 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Learn about Badger's multiple personalities in this beefy oneshot that paves the way for an all-new miniseries debuting next month!

Why Should You Care?

Mike Baron couldn't ask for anything more than this: the return of Baron and Rude's Nexus during the summer is followed up by the return of his quirky personality-disordered Looney-Tunes-superhero in this new-reader-friendly oneshot!

CAPTAIN MARVEL #1

Brian Reed (W); Lee Weeks (A)

(Marvel SEP072187 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Brought forward from the past in *Civil War*, Captain Marvel has to come to terms not only with how own impending death, but also with a world that has changed in disturbing ways during the subsequent years.

Why Should You Care?

How does a superhero deal with the knowledge of his own future? Star writer *Brian Reed* explores the Kree Captain's dilemma in this powerful miniseries.

CIRCLE #1

Brian Reed (W); Ian Hosfeld (W)

(Image SEP071947 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

One one side, a super-secret mercenary group... on the other, a rogue CIA assassin out for revenge. The stakes? A stolen nuclear missile train!

Why Should You Care?

Brian Reed & Ian Hosfeld blend the undercover tension of ***The Unit*** with the intrigue and suspense of ***Alias*** in this globe-hopping, fast-paced tale of espionage and ordnance.

COUNTDOWN SEARCH FOR RAY PALMER: GOTHAM BY GASLIGHT #1

Brian Augustyn (W); Greg Tocchini (A)

(DC SEP070148 $2.99)

COUNTDOWN SEARCH FOR RAY PALMER: RED RAIN #1

Peter Johnson (W); Kelley Jones (A)

(DC SEP070149 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Where's Palmer? The quest for the missing Atom takes the Challengers of the Beyond to two more multiverses—one a Victorian-era Gotham, the other a vampiric haven.

Why Should You Care?

We may not know all about all fifty-two realities in the DCU, but at least we're learning a little more about which elseworlds made the cut!

DAN DARE #1

Garth Ennis (W); Gary Erskine (A)

(Virgin SEP074035 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

A hero comes out of retirement to save the world one more time when a fleet of hostile spaceships targets humanity with a weapon of unimaginable power.

Why Should You Care?

One of Britain's best-known heroes returns in a series that combines classic SF-adventure with 21st Century sensibilities—and with *Garth Ennis* on board as writer, you know you'll want to check this one out!

FREDDY VS JASON VS ASH #1

Jeff Katz & James Kuhoric (W); Jason Craig (A)

(WildStorm/DC SEP070263 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

The only thing keeping Freddy Krueger in existence is the fear that exists in the twisted mind of Jason Vorhees. If the two want to end their mutual torment, they must seek out the Necronomicon... but that'll bring them face-to-face-to-face with none other than the chainsaw-wielding Ash, who wants to destroy the Book of the Dead once and for all.

Why Should You Care?

Booster Gold co-writer *Jeff Katz* turns his 2003 movie treatment into a splatterfest comic book crossover event co-produced by WildStorm and Dynamite.

GRENDEL: BEHOLD THE DEVIL #1

Matt Wagner (W/A)

(Dark Horse SEP070011 $3.50)

What's the Scoop?

The original Grendel, Hunter Rose, returns in a new miniseries presenting an untold chapter in the life of the greatest criminal mastermind in history.

Why Should You Care?

Matt Wagner returns to his most famous creation in this story that reveals the biggest secret of Hunter Rose's career as Grendel.

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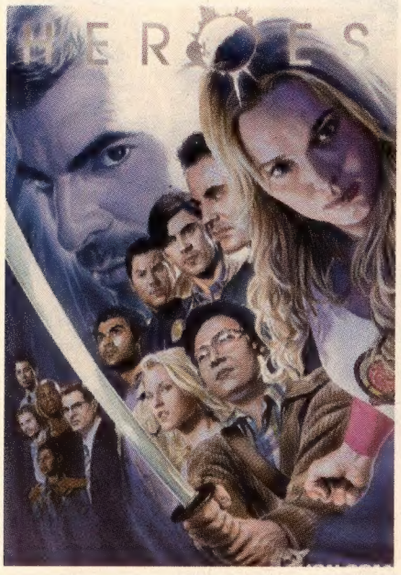


HEROES HC

Aron Eli Coleite, Chuck Kim, Joe Pokaski, Oliver Grigsby, Pierluigi Cothran, Andrew Chambliss, Harrison Wilcox, Jesse Alexander, Christopher Zatta, Mark Warshaw, & others (W); Phil Jimenez, Michael Turner, Koi Turnbull, Marcus To, Peter Steigerwald, David Moran, Micah Gunnell, Travis Kotzebue, Jordan Kotzebue, Jason Badower, Staz Johnson, Steve Lejeune, Adam Archer, Mark Roslan, Jim Lee, Alex Ross, & others (A)
(WildStorm/DC JUL078014 $24.99)

What's the Scoop?

Thirty-four Season One stories previously available online only are collected in print form for the first time in this hefty hardcover—and for good measure, WildStorm is throwing in *Tim Sale's* art as seen on the show!

Why Should You Care?

Fans of the NBC series can discover much more about the Heroes and the series' backstory in these compelling tales that complement the television episodes. And with creators like *Phil Jimenez, Michael Turner, Koi Turnbull,* and *Tim Sale* involved, you know we're talking about some first-class comics here!

HOUSE OF M: AVENGERS #1

Christos Gage (W); Mike Perkins (A)
(Marvel SEP072196 $2.99; also available in a signed edition (SEP073610 $19.99))

What's the Scoop?

Return to the world where mutants rule the earth and see how a gang of superpowered freedom fighters are transformed into a team known as the Avengers.

Why Should You Care?

Christos Gage proves that there are still more stories to be told about Marvel's Wanda-inspired alternate reality that turns Marvel continuity inside-out.

LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN: THE BLACK DOSSIER HC

Alan Moore (W); Kevin O'Neill (A)
(Vertigo/DC JUL060241 $29.99)

What's the Scoop?

More than a half-century after the events of the last ***LoEG*** saga, Mina Harker and Allan Quatermain want to know the truth about the now-disbanded League and their role in history... but the answers are hidden away deep in the vaults of their own headquarters in the pages of a hidden history: The Black Dossier.

Why Should You Care?

Alan Moore & Kevin O'Neill reveal the past and the future of the League in this far-reaching, expansive original graphic novel that pushes the metafictional boundaries further than ever before.

13. POPGUN VOL 1 GN

Mike Allred, Mike Bullock, Dave Crosland, Shepherd Hendrix, Joe Keatinge, Joseph Michael Linsner, Jim Mahfood, Moritat, Tim Seeley, Richard Starkings, Doug Wagner, & others (W/A)
(Image SEP071958 $29.99)

What's the Scoop?

Editors *Joe Keatinge & Mark Andrew Smith* invite a number of talented creators to follow their muse—and the result is a heaping helping of offbeat and fascinating stories equally accessible to long-time comics readers and newcomers alike!

Why Should You Care?

Want to see what some of your favorite creators would do if they were given *carte blanche?* Then check out this hefty 400+ page collection!

SALVATION RUN #1

Bill Willingham (W); Sean Chen & Walden Wong (A)
(DC SEP070153 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

What's the best way to clean up the DCU? Well, you *could* send the bad guys off-planet to a world where they'll only have one another to menace...

Why Should You Care?

Think ***Survivor*** with a cast of some of the most diabolical sociopaths the world has known and you have some idea what to expect from this grim *Bill Willingham* miniseries.

TALES OF THE SINESTRO CORPS: ION #1

Ron Marz (W); Michael Lacomb (A)
(DC SEP070162 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Kyle Rayner was once Earth's Green Lantern. Then he became the Corps' chosen one, Ion. That was followed by his transformation into Parallax. So what's next for Rayner? Find out here!

Why Should You Care?

Ron Marz, the writer who told the first tales of Green Lantern Kyle Rayner, returns to the character once again with this major "Sinestro Corps War" tie-in that offers a glimpse into Rayner's next role in the DCU.

TEEN TITANS EAST SPECIAL #1

Judd Winick (W); Ian Churchill & Norm Rapmund (A)
(DC SEP070207 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Cyborg reopens Titans Tower for a new team of Titans... but their new existence might be short-lived if a group of powerful forces has its way!

Why Should You Care?

Judd Winick promises some membership surprises in this special, which paves the way for a new ***Titans*** series (that may or may not be called **Titans East**) in early 2008.

UNCANNY X-MEN #492

Ed Brubaker (W); Billy Tan (A)
(Marvel SEP072232 $2.99)

X-FACTOR #25

Peter David (W); Scot Eaton (A)
(Marvel SEP072234 $2.99)

NEW X-MEN #44

Christopher Yost & Craig Kyle (W) Humberto Ramos (A)
(Marvel SEP072236 $2.99)

X-MEN #205

Mike Carey (W); Chris Bachalo (A)
(Marvel SEP072238 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

The Marvel Universe has been new-mutantless since the events of ***House of M...*** but now it seems that there's a mutant birth on the horizon... and every mutant faction is scrambling to make the new mutant one of their own!

Why Should You Care?

This story arc—Marvel's first major mutant event in years—presents the startling ramifications of Wanda's fateful "no more mutants" decree in a saga that reshapes the Marvel mutantverse for years to come.

WONDER WOMAN #14

Gail Simone (W); Terry & Rachel Dodson (A)
(DC SEP070208 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

What is the Circle, and what deadly secret do they hold about Diana's birth? What figure from Wonder Woman's past returns to spy on Diana Prince? Why is the Department of Metahuman Affairs on a collision course with the remnants of the Society of Super-Villains? The answers are in here!

Why Should You Care?

Fan-favorite writer *Gail Simone* takes the helm as ***Wonder Woman's*** writer with this issue—and she's joined by artists *Terry & Rachel Dodson*, whose stunning visuals were the highlight of the problematical *Allan Heinberg* **WW** relaunch.

WORLD OF WARCRAFT #1

Walter Simonson (W); Ludo Lullabi & Sandra Hope (A)
(WildStorm/DC SEP070247 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

The fantasy realm made famous in the multiplayer online videogame serves as the home for this new comic book series that begins when a human is found unconscious on the shoves of Kalimdor, with no memory of who he is or how he arrived there.

Why Should You Care?

World of Warcraft remains the hottest MMORPG out there—and if DC can tap into just a small fraction of that game-playing audience, they'll have a comic book mega-hit on their hands!

WORLD WAR HULK: AFTERSMASH

Greg Pak (W); Rafa Sandoval (A)
(Marvel SEP072202 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

World War Hulk may be over, but the effects of the Hulk's actions continue to reverberate through the Marvelverse in this story featuring the Warbound, the Renegades, Heroes for Hire, Iron Man, and many more.

Why Should You Care?

How does the Marvelverse recover from the Hulk's actions? This series explores the aftermath... and Marvel promises that there *will* be more smashing.

Check 'Em Out: Books You Should Be Reading

CLASSICS ILLUSTRATED DELUXE VOL 1: WIND IN THE WILLOWS SC

(PaperCutz SEP073888 $13.95)

Hey kids—comics! PaperCutz kicks off its deluxe ***Classics Illustrated*** line with this charming adaptation of the all-ages classic by *Kenneth Grahame & Michel Plessix.*

DARKNESS FIRST LOOK

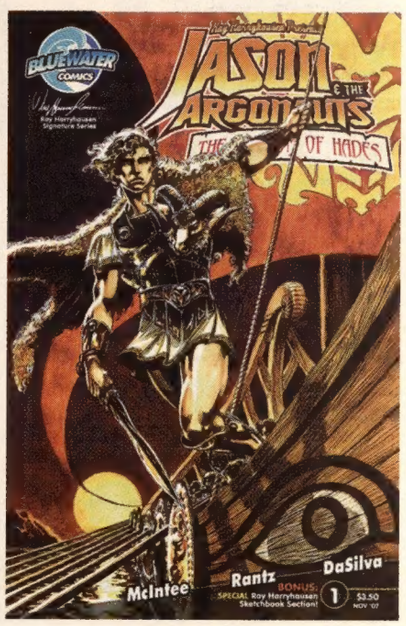
(Image SEP072026 99¢)

What does the future hold for Jackie Estacado? Find out in this sneak peek of next year's ***Darkness*** relaunch.

JASON & THE ARGONAUTS: KINGDOM OF HADES #1

(Bluewater SEP073444 $3.50)

Bluewater's "Ray Harryhausen Presents" line features the sort of exciting adventure that Harryhausen films are known for—but these are original comic book series rather than simple retellings of overly familiar films. Of all the Harryhausen inspired books, ***Jason and the Argonauts*** is the best of the bunch, capturing the excitement and sense of wonder of the mythology-inspired film from which it is derived.



KIMMIE66

(Minx/DC AUG070324 $9.99)

Aaron Alexovich takes readers into the neon-lit corridors of an online VR lair in this high-velocity, dangerous quest to locate the world's first digital girl.

LOWER REGION GN

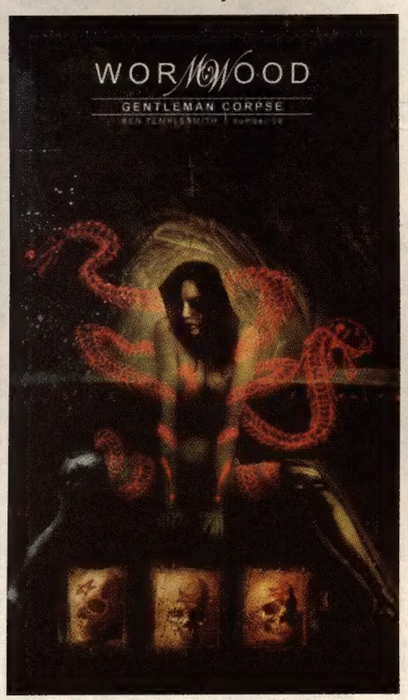
(Top Shelf SEP074014 $6.95)

Alex Robinson introduces a pretty barbarian lady with an axe chopping her way through a dungeon filled with monsters—and the whole story features only one word: 'Thoooom!'

WORMWOOD

(IDW SEP073778 $3.99)

Ben Templesmith's eccentric horror-humor series is back with an original oneshot that'll leave you wishing that Templesmith could find time for a new *Wormwood* book every month!



Hot Commodities: November's Hottest Merchandising & Collectibles

BATGIRL 13" COLLECTOR FIGURE

(DC Direct APR070280 $69.99)

Barbara Gordon's costumed alter-ego is the subject of this 13" cloth-costumed figure.

ELFQUEST BUST SKYWISE

(Dark Horse SEP070116 $49.99)

Sculpted by Tim Bruckner, based on art by Wendy Pini

ELFQUEST BUST: LEETAH

(Dark Horse AUG070173 $49.99)

Sculptor *Tim Bruckner* does the honors on these busts, part of a three-bust set that can be displayed separately or combined into one impressive showpiece.

WOMEN OF THE DC UNIVERSE: BLACK CANARY BUST

(DC Direct APR070289 $45.00)

Jack Mathews does the honors on this striking sculpt of one of the DCU's sexiest superheroines, and it's based on the art of good girl illustrator extraordinaire *Adam Hughes.*

Collected Cool: November's Best Reprint Volumes

DAREDEVIL BY FRANK MILLER OMNIBUS COMPANION HC

(Marvel SEP072255 $49.99)

Collecting ***Spectacular Spidey #27-28, Daredevil #219 & #226-233, Daredevil: Man Without Fear #1-5,*** and ***Daredevil: Love & War.***

JACK KIRBY'S FOURTH WORLD OMNIBUS VOL 3 HC

(DC JUL070248 $49.99)

Third of four volumes collecting *Jack Kirby's* classic 1970s classic 'Fourth World' magnum opus.

MAD ARCHIVES VOL 2 HC

(Mad/DC JUL070266 $49.99)

Collecting EC's classic ***Mad #s 7-12*** in full color.

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MAD
No. 7 OCT-NOV
AHA, DR. WHATSIT! THE CASE TAKES AN INTERESTING TURN! HERE'S A MUCH MORE SUSPICIOUS CHARACTER TO FOLLOW!
H. Kurtzman

SHOWCASE PRESENTS SGT. ROCK VOL 1 TP

(DC JUL078177 $16.99)

Collects Sgt. Rock stories from ***GI Combat #68 & Our Army at War #s 81-117.***

SHOWCASE PRESENTS SUPERGIRL VOL 1 TP

(DC JUL078178 $16.99)

Collects Supergirl stories from ***Action #s 252-281, Jimmy Olsen #s 40, 44, 46, 51, & 52, Adventure #278, Superboy #80, Lois Lane #14,*** and ***Superman #s 123, 139, 140, & 144.***

SHOWCASE PRESENTS WORLD'S FINEST COMICS VOL 1 TP

(DC JUL078179 $16.99)

Collects Superman/Batman teamup stories from ***Superman #76*** and ***World's Finest #s 71-111.***

STEPHEN KING'S DARK TOWER: GUNSLINGER BORN PREMIUM HC

(Marvel SEP072167 $24.99)

Collects the seven-issue series that expands on the fantastic world of *Stephen King's* Dark Tower saga.

FYI: Great Additions to Your Reference Library

ALL STAR COMPANION VOL 3 TP

(TwoMorrows SEP074020 $26.99)

Roy Thomas presents more amazing secrets behind the 1940-51 ***All-Star Comics*** and the 1941-44 ***Seven Soldiers of Victory*** - and illustrated speculation about how other Golden Age superteams might have been assembled.

ART OF JOE JUSKO HC

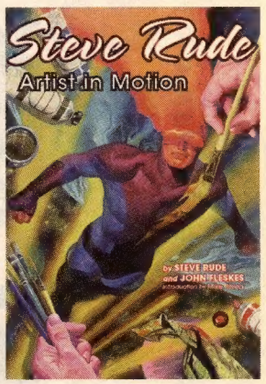
(Desperado SEP073550 $49.99)

Spotlighting Jusko's career from start to present, glimpse previously never-before-seen material from his files and sketchbooks, his comic work, covers and illustrations from his book publishing career, as well as beautifully reproduced images of his personal favorites and insights into his life and creative process.

STEVE RUDE ARTIST IN MOTION HC

(Flesk SEP073674 $39.95)

Rude explains his techniques for the layman to better understand his artistic process. Fans of Rude's comic work, art students, and admirers of illustration will find this book unique and intriguing.



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